



Clallam Conservation District

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MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting May 8, 2007

Supervisors Present: Bob Forde, Ben Smith, Nash Huber, Don Hatler, Joe Murray

Associate Supervisors Present: Walt Forsberg

Staff Present: Joe Holtrop, District Manager; Janell Kiphart, Administrative Assistant; Jennifer Coyle-Bond, and Clea Rome, Conservation Planners

Others present: Derek Rockett, Water Specialist, Dept. of Ecology; Kevin Russell, North Peninsula Builders Association

Ben Smith called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Kevin Russell of the North Peninsula Builder's Association presented Clea Rome with an award for her excellent work and contribution to the organization. Mr. Russell thanked Clea for all her hard work and dedication and said the organization was very pleased to have her assistance and that he looked forward to working with the Conservation District in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Nash Huber moved to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2007 meeting. Bob Forde seconded. Motion approved.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Jennifer Coyle-Bond – Reported that she and Meghan Peacock completed the Horse & Livestock Workshop series at the Port Angeles Library and in Joyce. The District is currently promoting an upcoming workshop series in Forks through press releases and direct mailings of postcards to livestock owners. Follow-up surveys will be sent to workshop attendees to determine what Best Management Practices were implemented as result of attending the workshop series.

Clea Rome – The Natural Landscaping Short Course is going well, participants recently completed plant walks with Joe Holtrop. Clea recently organized a meeting to discuss septic issues and options in the Three Crabs area. She, Joe Holtrop, Eric Rowland, and Jay Petersen evaluated the mouths of Cassalery and Cooper creeks and are currently looking at possible solutions for a problematic culvert and impacts by cattle on wetlands owned by Don McInnes.

Joe Holtrop – Joe recently gave a presentation at the Dungeness River Management Team which was well received. The Board discussed current activities of the Dungeness River Management Team, including rule making on instream flows for the Dungeness River and dike setback plans. The Clallam/Cline Dungeness Combo piping project was recently charged with water. There have been reported blowouts and flooding of fields, and it is unknown at this time if the problems are related to construction or design errors. A landowner on Thornton Road contacted Joe with a complaint regarding stormwater problems resulting from recent irrigation piping work. Joe referred this landowner to Jim White. Dave Howat recently completed installation of a drip irrigation system for his blueberries funded by the Irrigation Efficiencies Program. Joe presented information to a biology class at Sequim High School that is planning and building a school yard habitat project. Joe was questioned about the inner Dungeness bay stormwater analysis which he and Clea are currently working on. Joe was also questioned about the

microbial source tracking project and he reported that preliminary results should be out this summer. Two reporters with the Sequim Gazette interviewed Joe about an article regarding agriculture and water quality planned for an upcoming Living on the Peninsula special edition. The reporters also expressed interest in featuring the work of the Conservation District in the near future. Don Hatler mentioned that Jim Casey with the Peninsula Daily News has expressed interest in featuring the work of the Conservation District as well.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report – No report, Jim Poffel is in Moses Lake this week.

Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Report – Tony Ingersoll (not present) asked the Conservation District Board to appoint an alternate Supervisor to attend the Resource Conservation and Development Council meetings. Nash Huber is the current Board member appointed to these meetings but he has been unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. The Board asked Nash Huber if he thought it worthwhile to attend future meetings and Nash indicated that it was if the appointed Board member was willing to invest time and energy. Ben Smith indicated that he would talk with Tony Ingersoll to learn more about the opportunities associated with attending the Resource Conservation and Development Council meetings.

Ben Smith moved to approve the payment of the 2007 annual North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council dues in the amount of \$100. Bob Forde seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

Ben Smith moved to approve the April financial report and approve for payment those checks described as 6383 to 6409 in the total amount of \$36,919.19. Nash Huber seconded. Motion approved.

Announcements/Public Comment –

Derek Rockett, Nonpoint Specialist with the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program introduced himself to the Board and staff. He has been in this position for approximately a year and was invited to attend the Board meeting by Joe Holtrop. Mr. Rockett works with pasture based livestock operations while the Washington State Department of Agriculture works with animal feeding operations and confined animal feeding operations (AFO/CAFO's). Mr. Rockett is assigned to the Ecology Southwest Region, which is comprised of 13 counties. He introduced himself as a resource if the Conservation District so chooses to work with him and stressed that both the Conservation District and the Department of Ecology have the common goal of striving to improve and protect water quality. When questioned about his typical response to a complaint, Mr. Rockett replied that he would first contact the Conservation District to determine if the District was or currently is working with the operator for which the complaint was filed. He said that he stresses compliance rather than enforcement and always calls and speaks with a landowner/operator before visiting the property. He only accesses a property if permission has been given by the landowner/user. Mr. Rockett also explained that he will only be in our area to follow up on complaints.

OLD BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Nash Huber moved to elect Don Hatler to the position of Auditor and keep all of the other current officers the same. Bob Forde seconded. Motion approved.

Agricultural Water Quality Compliance – Joe Holtrop questioned the Board about appropriate action if a high priority farm is unwilling to cooperate with the District. A lengthy discussion ensued and opinions vary amongst the Board members as to whether or not the Conservation District has an obligation to pass along uncooperative landowners to regulatory agencies. The general consensus is to use every available resource to gain voluntary cooperation with a landowner.

Professional Services Contract with Ducks Unlimited for Lake Farm Wetland Engineering – The contract has been amended with the suggestions from the Board and has been reviewed by the District’s attorney.

Nash Huber moved to approve the Professional Services Contract with Ducks Unlimited. Bob Forde seconded. Motion approved.

Lake Farm Wetland Landowner Agreements – Clea reported that there will be a landowner agreement with each of the landowners involved with the Lake Farm Wetland Restoration Project. The District’s attorney suggested obtaining a temporary conservation easement with each landowner, which will be recorded with the County after the project is completed. The Board suggested that Clea hand deliver the landowner agreement and conservation easement to each landowner so she could answer any questions they might have. The Board expressed concern that in the event that the property was sold or a new landowner takes possession, the wetland restoration project may not be maintained as intended. They asked Clea to look into the necessary paperwork to establish a lien on the title of the property that protects the wetland restoration project in the event that a new landowner takes possession.

NEW BUSINESS

Cost-Share Agreement – Joe Holtrop requested that Jeff Brown of Willo-Wist Farm be approved for Cost Share for a big gun manure applicator. Jeff Brown currently rents a big gun to apply manure and scheduling difficulties have caused manure to be applied in a manner inconsistent with his dairy nutrient management plan. The cost share rate is 50% for this practice and Jeff has indicated that he would like to purchase a used big gun manure applicator.

Nash Huber moved to approve the Cost Share Agreement with Jeff Brown for a big gun manure applicator at the cost-share rate of 50%, with the District’s portion not to exceed \$6,000. Ben Smith seconded. Motion approved.

Review of Official Actions of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.